



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 81

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 5269

House of Representatives, March 17, 2011

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-143j of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

3 (a) As used in this chapter, "commissioner" means the
4 Commissioner of Public Safety and "mixed martial arts" means
5 unarmed combat involving the use of a combination of techniques
6 from different disciplines of the martial arts and includes grappling,
7 kicking, jujitsu and striking.

8 (b) The commissioner shall have sole control of and jurisdiction over
9 all amateur and professional boxing and sparring and all professional
10 mixed martial arts matches held, conducted or given within the state
11 by any person or persons, club, corporation or association, except
12 amateur boxing and sparring matches held under the supervision of
13 any school, college or university having an academic course of study

14 or of the recognized athletic association connected with such school,
15 college or university or amateur boxing and sparring matches held
16 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been
17 determined by the commissioner to be capable of ensuring the health
18 and safety of the participants; provided the commissioner may at any
19 time assume jurisdiction over any amateur boxing or sparring match if
20 the commissioner determines that the health and safety of the
21 participants is not being sufficiently safeguarded. The commissioner
22 may appoint inspectors who shall, on the order of the commissioner,
23 represent the commissioner at all boxing or mixed martial arts
24 matches. The commissioner may appoint a secretary who shall prepare
25 for service such notices and papers as may be required and perform
26 such other duties as the commissioner directs.

27 (c) The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized
28 representative may cause a full investigation to be made of the location
29 of, and paraphernalia and equipment to be used in any boxing, [or]
30 sparring or mixed martial arts match and all other matters and shall
31 determine whether or not such match will be reasonably safe for the
32 participants and for public attendance and may make reasonable
33 orders concerning alterations or betterments to the equipment and
34 paraphernalia, and concerning the character and arrangement of the
35 seating, means of egress, lighting, firefighting appliances, fire and
36 police protection and such other provisions as shall make the match
37 reasonably safe against both fire and casualty hazards.

38 (d) When any serious physical injury, as defined in subdivision (4)
39 of section 53a-3, or death occurs in connection with a boxing, [or]
40 sparring or mixed martial arts match, the owner of the location of the
41 match shall, not later than four hours after such occurrence, report the
42 injury or death to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee.
43 Not later than four hours after receipt of such report, the commissioner
44 or the commissioner's designee shall cause an investigation of the
45 occurrence to determine the cause of such serious physical injury or
46 death. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may enter
47 into any place or upon any premises so registered or licensed in

48 furtherance of such investigation and inspection.

49 (e) The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Boxing
50 Commission, shall adopt such regulations in accordance with chapter
51 54 as the commissioner deems necessary and desirable for the conduct,
52 supervision and safety of boxing matches, including the licensing of
53 the sponsors and the participants of such boxing matches, and for the
54 development and promotion of the sport of boxing in this state,
55 including, but not limited to, regulations to improve the
56 competitiveness of the sport of boxing in this state relative to other
57 states. Such regulations shall require fees for the issuance of licenses to
58 such sponsors and participants as follows: (1) For referees, a fee of not
59 less than one hundred twenty-six dollars; (2) for matchmakers and
60 assistant matchmakers, a fee of not less than one hundred twenty-six
61 dollars; (3) for timekeepers, a fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (4)
62 for professional boxers, a fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (5) for
63 amateur boxers, a fee of not less than fifteen dollars; (6) for managers, a
64 fee of not less than one hundred twenty-six dollars; (7) for trainers, a
65 fee of not less than twenty-six dollars; (8) for seconds, a fee of not less
66 than twenty-six dollars; (9) for announcers, a fee of not less than
67 twenty-six dollars; and (10) for promoters, a fee of not less than three
68 hundred fifteen dollars.

69 (f) No organization, gymnasium or independent club shall host a
70 sparring or mixed martial arts match unless such organization,
71 gymnasium or independent club registers with the Department of
72 Public Safety in accordance with this subsection. The commissioner
73 shall register any organization, gymnasium or independent club that
74 the commissioner deems qualified to host such matches. Application
75 for such registration shall be made on forms provided by the
76 department and accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars. For the
77 purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner
78 or an authorized representative may inspect the facility of any such
79 organization, gymnasium or independent club. The Attorney General,
80 at the request of the Commissioner of Public Safety, may apply in the
81 name of the state of Connecticut to the Superior Court for an order

82 temporarily or permanently restraining any organization, gymnasium
83 or independent club from operating in violation of any provision of
84 this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant to this subsection.
85 The commissioner, in consultation with the Connecticut Boxing
86 Commission, shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with chapter
87 54, as the commissioner deems necessary for the conduct, supervision
88 and safety of sparring matches.

89 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
90 the provisions of chapter 54, to regulate the conduct, supervision and
91 safety of mixed martial arts matches, including the licensing of
92 sponsors and participants of such matches, and to set a reasonable fee
93 for the issuance of licenses to sponsors, combatants and participants in
94 mixed martial arts matches.

95 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The state, acting by and in the discretion of the
96 commissioner, may enter into a contract with any person for the
97 services of such person acting as an inspector appointed in accordance
98 with the provisions of this section.

99 Sec. 2. Section 29-143l of the general statutes is repealed and the
100 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

101 (a) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, issue a
102 license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts match
103 to any person, persons, club, corporation or association. Before any
104 such license is granted, the applicant shall execute and file with the
105 commissioner a bond in such amount and form and with such surety
106 as is determined by the commissioner, which bond shall be
107 conditioned for the payment of the tax imposed by section 29-143m, as
108 amended by this act. Upon the filing and approval of such bond, the
109 commissioner shall issue to such applicant a certificate of such filing
110 and approval. No license shall be issued under this section until such
111 bond is filed.

112 (b) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, revoke
113 any license to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts

114 match issued under this section for cause as provided in this chapter or
115 in any regulation adopted under this chapter in accordance with
116 chapter 54.

117 Sec. 3. Section 29-143m of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

119 Any person or combination of persons who, and any club,
120 corporation or association which, holds or promotes any boxing or
121 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition or exercises any of the
122 privileges conferred by this chapter or the regulations adopted under
123 this chapter shall, within twenty-four hours after the determination of
124 each boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition: (1)
125 Furnish to the commissioner a written report verified by such person
126 or combination of persons or by the treasurer and secretary of such
127 club, corporation or association, which report shall include a statement
128 of the number of tickets sold for such match or exhibition, the amount
129 of gross receipts for such match or exhibition and such other
130 information as the commissioner prescribes; and (2) pay to the
131 commissioner a tax of five per cent of the total receipts after federal
132 taxes have been deducted from the paid admissions to such boxing or
133 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition, which tax shall be
134 paid into the State Treasury.

135 Sec. 4. Section 29-143n of the general statutes is repealed and the
136 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

137 If any person or combination of persons, club, corporation or
138 association fails to make a report of any [contest] match or exhibition
139 as required by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, within the time
140 prescribed by section 29-143m, as amended by this act, or if any such
141 report fails to include sufficient information, the commissioner may
142 examine, or cause to be examined, the books and records of any such
143 person or combination of persons, club, corporation or association and
144 subpoena and examine under oath such person or officers of such club,
145 corporation or association and other persons for the purpose of
146 determining the total amount of such gross receipts and the amount of

147 tax due pursuant to the provisions of section 29-143m, as amended by
148 this act, which tax [he] the commissioner may thereupon fix and
149 determine. In case of default in the payment of any tax ascertained by
150 the commissioner to be due and the expenses incurred in making such
151 examination, for a period of twenty days after notice to such
152 delinquent person or combination of persons, club, corporation or
153 association, such delinquent shall forfeit the license issued under
154 section 29-143l, as amended by this act, and shall be disqualified from
155 receiving any new license under section 29-143l, as amended by this
156 act. Such delinquent shall also forfeit to the state the sum of five
157 hundred dollars.

158 Sec. 5. Section 29-143o of the general statutes is repealed and the
159 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

160 Any person who, and the officers of any club, corporation or
161 association which, sells or causes to be sold any ticket of admission for
162 any boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition in
163 excess of the seating capacity of the room, hall, place, building or
164 structure used for such boxing or mixed martial arts match or
165 wrestling exhibition, shall, for the first offense, be fined not more than
166 two hundred dollars, which shall be paid to the state. For a subsequent
167 offense, the club, corporation, association or person or persons shall
168 forfeit its, his or their license issued under section 29-143l, as amended
169 by this act, shall be disqualified from receiving any new license issued
170 under section 29-143l, as amended by this act, and shall forfeit to the
171 state the sum of five hundred dollars. The officers of any such club,
172 corporation or association, for such subsequent offense, shall be fined
173 not more than two hundred dollars.

174 Sec. 6. Section 29-143p of the general statutes is repealed and the
175 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

176 The price of admission and of the seats to any boxing or mixed
177 martial arts match conducted under the provisions of this chapter shall
178 be published in a newspaper published and circulated in the town, city
179 or borough where such [boxing] match is to be conducted, if any

180 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, but, if no
181 newspaper is published in such town, city or borough, such
182 publication shall be made in a newspaper having a substantial
183 circulation in such town, city or borough. Any such publication shall
184 be made in at least three separate editions of such paper and in a space
185 not less than two inches by three inches in size.

186 Sec. 7. Section 29-143q of the general statutes is repealed and the
187 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

188 (a) No boxing match shall consist of more than twelve rounds and
189 each round shall be no longer than three minutes nor less than two
190 minutes in duration. In all matches, if a contestant who has been
191 knocked down arises before the count of ten seconds, the referee shall
192 complete a count of eight seconds and assure himself that the
193 contestant is fit to continue. The referee may, in the referee's discretion,
194 order a standing knockdown and a mandatory eight count if a
195 contestant is taking a severe beating and is apparently defenseless but
196 is not knocked down. The standing knockdown shall be treated in all
197 respects, including scoring, as a knockdown.

198 (b) No mixed martial arts match shall consist of more than five
199 rounds, with each round to be followed by a period of rest of not less
200 than one minute.

201 (c) No boxing or mixed martial arts match shall be conducted unless
202 a referee approved by the commissioner is in attendance and directs
203 and controls the boxing or mixed martial arts match.

204 Sec. 8. Section 29-143r of the general statutes is repealed and the
205 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

206 The commissioner shall select the referees for any boxing
207 [exhibition] or mixed martial arts match conducted, held or given
208 within this state, except amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held
209 under the supervision of any school, college or university having an
210 academic course of study or of the recognized athletic association

211 connected with such school, college or university or amateur boxing
212 [exhibitions] matches held under the auspices of any amateur athletic
213 association that has been determined by the commissioner to be
214 capable of ensuring the health and safety of the participants. All such
215 referees shall be licensed by the commissioner under this chapter and
216 the regulations adopted by the commissioner under this chapter, in
217 accordance with chapter 54.

218 Sec. 9. Section 29-143s of the general statutes is repealed and the
219 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

220 No boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition shall
221 be held on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day or Veterans'
222 Day.

223 Sec. 10. Section 29-143t of the general statutes is repealed and the
224 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

225 (a) No person shall engage in any boxing match as a boxer or in any
226 mixed martial arts match as a combatant until such person has been
227 examined and found to be physically fit by a competent physician
228 approved by the commissioner, licensed to practice under the laws of
229 this state and in practice in this state for at least two years. Such
230 physician shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall be in
231 attendance throughout the boxing or mixed martial arts match for
232 which such examination was made. Such physician shall certify, in
233 writing, that the [contestant] boxer or combatant is physically fit to
234 engage in such boxing or mixed martial arts match. Any fee for such
235 physician, as determined by the commissioner, shall be paid by the
236 person or club, corporation or association conducting such boxing or
237 mixed martial arts match.

238 (b) The cost of any physical examination required by this chapter or
239 regulations adopted under this chapter, other than an examination
240 required by subsection (a) of this section, may be assessed by the
241 commissioner on any boxer or combatant examined by a physician
242 appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation or

243 association conducting the next boxing or mixed martial arts match in
244 which the [contestant] boxer or combatant is scheduled to compete.

245 Sec. 11. Section 29-143u of the general statutes is repealed and the
246 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

247 Any person acting as principal, manager, second, promoter or
248 matchmaker receiving or accepting, directly or indirectly, any money
249 or other valuable thing from any boxer in a boxing match or combatant
250 in a mixed martial arts match for any special privilege or for
251 discriminating in any manner relating to any boxing or mixed martial
252 arts match shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in section 29-143z.

253 Sec. 12. Section 29-143v of the general statutes is repealed and the
254 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

255 No person under eighteen years of age shall engage in any
256 professional boxing or mixed martial arts match or wrestling
257 exhibition and no person under sixteen years of age shall engage in
258 any amateur boxing match or amateur wrestling exhibition except a
259 match or exhibition held under the supervision of a school, college or
260 university having an academic course of study or the athletic
261 association connected with such school, college or university or held
262 under the auspices of any amateur athletic association that has been
263 determined by the commissioner, under section 29-143j, as amended
264 by this act, to be capable of ensuring the health and safety of the
265 participants.

266 Sec. 13. Section 29-143w of the general statutes is repealed and the
267 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

268 No person shall bet or wager upon the result of any boxing or
269 mixed martial arts match or wrestling exhibition.

270 Sec. 14. Section 29-143x of the general statutes is repealed and the
271 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

272 No person under eighteen years of age shall be admitted to any

273 professional boxing [exhibition] match or mixed martial arts match,
274 provided any person fourteen years of age or over may be admitted
275 when accompanied by [his] such person's parent or guardian.

276 Sec. 15. Section 29-143y of the general statutes is repealed and the
277 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

278 No license shall be issued under section 29-143l, as amended by this
279 act, to conduct, hold or give any boxing or mixed martial arts match in
280 any town, city or borough which has adopted any ordinance
281 prohibiting boxing or mixed martial arts matches within its limits.

282 Sec. 16. Section 53-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the
283 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

284 Any person who is principal or second in any prize fight in this
285 state shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more
286 than one thousand dollars or both. A contest in which blows are struck
287 which are intended or calculated to stun, disable or knock out either of
288 the contestants, or in which either contestant is counted out or
289 otherwise declared defeated because of failure to resume the contest
290 within a certain time, shall be deemed a prize fight within the meaning
291 of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to boxing
292 exhibitions held or conducted under the laws of this state, or to
293 wrestling bouts or amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held under
294 the provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or under the
295 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic
296 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected
297 with such school, college or university, or to any mixed martial arts
298 match held or conducted under chapter 532a.

299 Sec. 17. Section 53-201 of the general statutes is repealed and the
300 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

301 Any person who is present at any prize fight, to aid, abet or assist
302 therein, or give countenance thereto, or who aids or encourages such
303 fight in this state, without being present thereat, shall be imprisoned

304 not more than two years or fined not more than five hundred dollars
 305 or both. The provisions of this section shall not apply to boxing
 306 exhibitions held or conducted under the laws of this state, or to
 307 wrestling bouts, or to amateur boxing [exhibitions] matches held under
 308 the provisions of section 29-143j, as amended by this act, or the
 309 supervision of any school, college or university having an academic
 310 course of study or of the recognized athletic association connected
 311 with such school, college or university, or to any mixed martial arts
 312 match held or conducted under chapter 532a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2011	29-143j
Sec. 2	October 1, 2011	29-143l
Sec. 3	October 1, 2011	29-143m
Sec. 4	October 1, 2011	29-143n
Sec. 5	October 1, 2011	29-143o
Sec. 6	October 1, 2011	29-143p
Sec. 7	October 1, 2011	29-143q
Sec. 8	October 1, 2011	29-143r
Sec. 9	October 1, 2011	29-143s
Sec. 10	October 1, 2011	29-143t
Sec. 11	October 1, 2011	29-143u
Sec. 12	October 1, 2011	29-143v
Sec. 13	October 1, 2011	29-143w
Sec. 14	October 1, 2011	29-143x
Sec. 15	October 1, 2011	29-143y
Sec. 16	October 1, 2011	53-200
Sec. 17	October 1, 2011	53-201

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section (7)(b) "rest of" was added for clarity and to carry out legislative intent, in section 10 "boxer or combatant" was substituted for "contestant" for statutory consistency and in sections 11, 14, 16 and 17 "match" was substituted for "exhibition" for statutory consistency.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	25,500	34,000
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	2,975	2,975
Net State Impact	GF - Revenue Gain	22,525	31,025

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill, which allows the Department of Public Safety to regulate mixed martial arts matches, would result in net state impact of \$22,525 in FY 12 and \$31,025 in FY 13.

Assuming that the revenue and cost from mixed martial arts is similar to the revenue and cost generated by boxing and wrestling, the bill results in a revenue gain of approximately \$25,500 in FY 12 and \$34,000 annually thereafter associated with license, permit, and admissions tax revenue. The estimated cost to regulate the matches is \$2,975 for inspector per diem pay (an estimated \$125 for each match).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing revenue impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. The annualized ongoing cost would remain stable at an estimated \$125 per inspector for each match, pending any changes in the per diem policy.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5269*****AN ACT REGULATING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill legalizes mixed martial arts, subject to regulation by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). "Mixed martial arts" means unarmed combat involving a combination of techniques from different martial arts disciplines, including grappling, kicking, jujitsu, and striking. The bill generally subjects the sport to the same laws governing boxing. Among other things, it:

1. requires match promoters, referees, sponsors, and combatants to be licensed by DPS (§ 1(g), 2, & 8);
2. requires organizations, gymnasiums, or clubs hosting matches to register with DPS and pay a \$100 fee (§ 1(f));
3. allows the commissioner to investigate match venues for safety (§ 1(c));
4. requires participants to be certified by a doctor and found to be in good health (§ 10);
5. prohibits betting on matches (§ 13);
6. prohibits anyone under age 18 from participating in matches (§ 12);
7. imposes a 5% tax on gross receipts from admissions to matches (§ 3);
8. requires referees licensed and approved by the commissioner to be present at all matches (§§ 7 & 8);

9. prohibits matches on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day (§ 9);
10. prohibits the commissioner from issuing a license to conduct or hold mixed martial arts matches where prohibited by local ordinance (§ 15); and
11. requires the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations setting license fees and governing the conduct, supervision, and safety of matches (§ 1(g)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

§ 1 — JURISDICTION OVER MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES

Regulation of Mixed Martial Arts

The bill gives the DPS commissioner jurisdiction over professional mixed martial arts matches. It allows him to appoint (1) inspectors to represent him at matches and (2) a secretary to prepare any required notices and papers for service and perform other duties as he directs. It allows the state, at the commissioner's discretion, to contract with people to serve as inspectors.

Enforcement

The bill allows the commissioner or his representative to investigate (1) the location of, and paraphernalia and equipment to be used in, matches and (2) all other matters related to mixed martial arts. He (1) must determine whether matches will be reasonably safe for participants and attendees and (2) may make reasonable orders to alter or improve the equipment and paraphernalia and the type and arrangement of seats, exits, lighting, firefighting appliances, fire and police protection, and other provisions to make matches reasonably safe from both fire and casualty hazards.

Injury Reports

The bill requires the owner of any match venue where a serious physical injury or death from a match occurs to report it to the commissioner or his designee within four hours after it occurs. The

commissioner or his designee must investigate the incident within four hours after receiving the report to determine the cause, and they may enter any registered or licensed premises to conduct further investigation or inspection.

Registration Requirement

The bill requires organizations, gymnasiums, or independent clubs hosting mixed martial arts matches to register with DPS. The commissioner must register applicants he deems qualified to host matches. The registration fee is \$100, and the applicant must include it with the application. The commissioner or a designee may inspect the applicant's facility to enforce the law.

The attorney general, at the commissioner's request, may apply to the Superior Court for a temporary or permanent order to restrain any organization, gymnasium, or independent club from operating in violation of any pertinent law.

Regulations

The commissioner must adopt regulations to (1) govern the conduct, safety, and supervision of mixed martial arts matches, including the licensing of match sponsors and participants, and (2) set reasonable license fees for sponsors, combatants, and participants.

§ 2 — LICENSING

The bill allows the commissioner to issue, and revoke for cause, licenses to conduct, hold, or operate mixed martial arts matches.

Before being licensed, an applicant must execute and file a bond with the commissioner in an amount and form and with such surety as the commissioner determines. The bond must be conditioned upon the payment of the 5% tax on gross receipts from admissions to a mixed martial arts match (see below). When the commissioner approves the bond, he must give the applicant a certificate of the filing and his approval.

§§ 3 & 4 — TAX PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

The bill imposes a 5% tax on promoters and sponsors of martial arts matches. The tax, which is on the gross receipts from admissions, after federal taxes have been deducted, must be paid into the State Treasury. The bill requires sponsors and promoters, within 24 hours after a match ends, to give the commissioner a written, verified report. The report must state the number of tickets sold for the match or exhibition, gross receipts, and any other information the commissioner prescribes.

The commissioner may (1) examine the books or records of a violator who did not file the report within the deadline or failed to include sufficient information and (2) subpoena and examine the violator under oath to determine the amount of the gross receipts and tax due. He may then fix the amount of tax due. Licensees who fail to pay the tax owed, plus expenses the commissioner incurred in conducting the examination, within 20 days after being notified, forfeit their license and may not be relicensed. They must also pay a \$500 fine.

§ 5 — VIOLATIONS

The bill makes it illegal to sell more tickets to a martial arts match than the seating capacity of the venue. The fine is up to \$200 for a first violation. For a subsequent violation, the fine is \$500 and (1) the club, corporation, or person forfeits the license, and (2) the corporation or association's officers must pay a fine of up to \$200.

§ 6 — TICKET PRICES

The bill requires the admission and seat prices at any mixed martial arts match to be published in a newspaper published and circulated in the town, city, or borough where the match will take place or, if no newspaper is published in the area, in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the area. The publication must be made in at least three separate editions of the paper and in a space no less than two inches by three inches.

§ 9 — DAYS WHEN MATCHES ARE PROHIBITED

The bill prohibits mixed martial arts matches on Christmas Day,

Good Friday, Memorial Day, and Veterans' Day.

§§ 7, 8, & 10 — RULES GOVERNING MATCHES

Limits on Rounds

The bill imposes a five-round limit on a mixed martial arts match and requires at least a one-minute rest period after each round. It requires a referee approved by the commissioner to be present to direct and control every match (§ 7).

Referees Must be Licensed

The bill requires the commissioner to select and license the referees for mixed martial arts matches conducted, held, or promoted in Connecticut (§ 8).

Physical Condition of Fighters

The bill prohibits anyone from fighting in a mixed martial arts match unless the person has been examined and found to be physically fit by a competent physician approved by the commissioner and licensed to practice in Connecticut for at least two years. The physician must be appointed by the commissioner and attend the entire match for which the examination is made. The physician must certify, in writing, that the contestant is physically fit to participate in the match.

The physician's fee, as determined by the commissioner, must be paid by the person, club, corporation, or association conducting the match. The cost of any required physical examination, other than the above fee, may be assessed by the commissioner on any fighter examined by a physician appointed by the commissioner or on the person, club, corporation, or association conducting the next match in which the fighter is scheduled to compete (§ 10).

§ 11 — FINES

The bill subjects to a \$200 fine a principal, manager, second, promoter, or matchmaker who receives or accepts, any money or other form of payment from any mixed martial arts fighter for any special privilege or any type of discrimination relating to a match.

§§ 12 & 14 — AGE LIMITS

The bill prohibits anyone under age 18 from engaging in mixed martial arts matches. It prohibits anyone under age 18 from being admitted to any mixed martial arts exhibition, except that a person age 14 or older may be admitted if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

§ 13 — BETS

The bill prohibits betting on mixed martial arts matches.

§ 15 — LOCAL ORDINANCES PROHIBITING MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

The bill prohibits the commissioner from issuing a license to conduct or hold mixed martial arts matches where prohibited by local ordinance.

§§ 16 & 17 — EXEMPTION FROM PRIZE FIGHT BAN

The bill eliminates mixed martial arts matches from a prohibition on prize fights.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 1 (03/01/2011)